

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer our email news on a *monthly* basis.

State Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee:**

The **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights [September 2012 report](#)** and the **[Tracking Arizona's Recovery](#)** September 2012 are posted at the Arizona State Legislature's website.

According to the September Monthly Fiscal Highlights report, "August General Fund Collections were \$(30.2) million below the enacted May budget forecast. Year-to-date revenues are 2.9% higher than last year and are \$(13.2) million below the budget forecast."

Election Day – November 6th

Voter Information and Resources

Arizona State Legislature *ballot measure analyses* [page](#)

Arizona Secretary of State - *elections* [web page](#)

Arizona Prosperity Project - *candidates* [page](#)

Legislature's Interim Committees

If you're interested in following the work of the Interim Committees between sessions, the agendas are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or **contacting your legislator from your area**.

Locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

Not sure about your district? District maps are posted [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Congress recessed until after the November election. Before doing so, they passed a six-month continuing resolution in lieu of a federal budget. The continuing resolution provides the federal government with the ability to continue operating at roughly the same current spending levels until 3/28/2013.

S.3592

Locally Grown Foods for Older American Act

Introduced on September 20, 2012 by Senator Michael F. Bennet (CO)

Intent: to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to encourage the use of locally grown food in meal programs.

On 9/20/2012, S.3592 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

S.3593

Improving Services and Activities for Diverse Elders Act

Introduced on September 20, 2012 by Senator Michael F. Bennet (CO)

Intent: To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to strengthen programming, services, and outreach for diverse elders, and for other purposes.

Objective: Section 101(8) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001(8)) is amended by inserting 'and supports, offered in a culturally and linguistically competent manner' after 'community services.'

Changes made to Section 306(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)) related to Area Plans and Section 307(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)) related to State Plans.

On 9/20/2012, referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Related Bills: S.3562

S.3598

Robert Matava Exploitation Protection for Elder Adults Act of 2012

Introduced on 9/20/2012 by Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT)

Intent: To protect elder adults from exploitation and financial crime, to prevent elder adult abuse and financial exploitation, and to promote safety for elder adults.

S.3598 includes:

- Enhanced penalty for telemarketing and email-marketing fraud directed at elders.
- Data collection.
- Model States laws and practices.
- Civil protection and criminal prosecution.
- Interstate agreements and compacts.
- Recommendations on interstate communication.
- GAO report to assess cost of elder abuse on Federal programs.

On 9/20/2012, S.3598 was referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Related Bills: S.462

S.3604

Improving Dementia Care Treatment for Older Adults Act of 2012

Introduced on 9/20/2012 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI)

Intent: to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the implementation of prescriber education programs and to establish requirements relating to the administration of antipsychotics to residents of skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

On 9/20/12, S3604 was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

S.3621

Seniors' Financial Bill of Rights Act

Introduced on 9/21/2012 by Senator Joe Manchin III (WV)

Intent: To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide for a Seniors' Financial Bill of Rights, and for other purposes.

Section 307(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)) is amended by adding State Seniors' Financial Bill of Rights that addresses access by older individuals to-

- sufficient information about their financial rights, specifically rights with regard to powers of attorney and the duties of their agents or attorneys under a power of attorney, and of fiduciaries;
- financial counseling resources to make informed financial choices
- legal assistance to protect their financial rights; and
- adult protective services and appropriate law enforcement and regulatory authorities, in situations in which financial exploitation is alleged or suspected; and

Also - assures that agents or attorneys under a power of attorney, fiduciaries, staff that provide long-term care, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies have sufficient information about the financial rights of, and signs of financial exploitation of, older individuals.

On 9/21/2012, the bill was referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

OTHER NEWS

From the **U.S. Social Security Administration**

Announcement regarding 1.7% Benefit Increase in 2013

<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/2013cola-pr-alt.pdf>

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

Digital strategies for making information accessible via technology

<http://www.hhs.gov/digitalstrategy/mobile/index.html>

From the **Administration for Community Living**

ACL News & Info, Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Recent Reports

Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and A Challenge

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/op/edit/home/publications/pid/11584>

Source: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and HelpAge International

Date: October 2012

Adult Protective Services in 2012: Increasingly Vulnerable

<http://www.apsnetwork.org/research/BaselineSurveyFinal.pdf>

Source: National Adult Protective Services Association and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities

Date: October 2012

From **ACL News & Info, Monday, October 15, 2012**

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7. Now is the time for beneficiaries to compare plans, and make sure they have the right health and prescription drug coverage. Stay with your current plan if you are happy with it. Or look for a new one with better coverage, higher quality, and lower cost.

To review and compare plans, get answers to your questions and learn where to get further help near you, visit <http://www.medicare.gov/> or call 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

From **ACL News & Info, Monday, October 22, 2012**

Recent Reports

Understanding the Impact of Family Caregiving on Work

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/lrc/2012/understanding-impact-family-caregiving-work-AARP-ppi-lrc.pdf

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

Date: October 2012

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**

Medicare Policy October 2012

Transforming Medicare Into a Premium Support System: Implications for Beneficiary Premiums

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8373.pdf>

Latest information on the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* can be found [here](#).

More transportation news...

National Center on Senior Transportation *NCST News* can be found [here](#).

From **Reconnecting America**

[Are We There Yet? Creating Complete Communities for 21st Century America](#)

From the **National Council on Aging**

[Medicare Open Enrollment Tips](#)

Fall Prevention [Fact Sheet](#)

From **Boston College Sloan Center on Aging & Work**

"Work Longer - But How?" *How one company is responding to the exit of older workers*

Blog: <http://agingandwork.bc.edu/blog/work-longer-but-how/>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 17th Annual Caregiver Conference; *A Caregiver's Harvest; Care, Comfort & Compassion*

WHEN: Saturday, November 10, 2012, Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, 710 S. Kolb Rd., Tucson, AZ

For more information, click [here](#).

WHAT: 4th Bi-Annual Santa Cruz County Elder Abuse Coalition Conference

WHEN: Friday, November 16, 2012, Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, Arizona 85621

For more information, click [here](#).

October 2012 issue of The Caregiver Connection (northern Arizona) is available [here](#).

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the ***Legislative Updates*** are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging